

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0476

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG POSITION ON COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENT

REF: BONN 16981 (DTG 161712Z OCT 75

MBFR VIENNA 0285 (DTG 191455Z JUN 75)

1. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL AND FROM RECENT SPEC DISCUSSION THAT FRG HAS AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF A COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENT. NOW THAT THE ALLIES HAVE ESTABLISHED MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER IN THE OPTION 3 GUIDANCE THAT THE COMMON CEILING MUST BE OF A COLLECTIVE NATURE, THIS FRG DESIRE IS SUPERFLUOUS: COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENTS IN PHASE 2 ARE UNNECESSARY IF THE SOLE OBLIGATION REMAINING AFTER REDUCTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT IS TO ACCEPT CO-RESPONSIBILITY WITH OTHER NATO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

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HAVE NOT EXCEEDED A COLLECTIVE CEILING. MOREOVER,

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DECIDE AT THIS TIME, OUT OF THE CONTEXT OF THE ENTIRE RANGE OF PHASE II DECISIONS, ON THE NATURE OF PHASE II REDUCTION COMMITMENTS. COMMITMENTS EVEN BY INDIVIDUAL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN CONNECTION WITH A PHASE I AGREEMENT TO "PARTICIPATE" IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS TO A COMMON CEILING WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENT OR GIVE RISE TO A NATIONAL CEILING.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENTS IS INCLUDED IN THE GUIDANCE, WE CAN EXPECT ITS USE IN VIENNA BY INDIVIDUAL ALLIED REPS EVEN IF IT IS PREMATURE TO DO SO. BECAUSE THE WORD "COLLECTIVE" IS A RED FLAG TO WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, ITS USE IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING REDUCTION COMMITMENTS WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE MORE IMPORTANT WESTERN OBJECTIVE OF SEEKING TO GAIN EASTERN AGREEMENT TO A COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING.

3. ANOTHER ASPECT: WARSAW PACT SUSPICIONS THT THERE WILL BE NO FRG REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II, OR THAT THERE WILL BE NO PHASE II AT ALL, ARE ALREADY HIGH. ALLIED STATEMENTS THAT PHASE II REDUCTION COMMITMENTS CAN ONLY BE COLLECTIVE WILL FURTHER INTENSIFY THIS SUSPICION AND JEOPARDIZE ALLIED CHANCES OF OBTAINING EASTERN AGREEMENT TO PHASING.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US ARGUE AGAINST THE IDEA OF COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENTS AS SUPERFLUOUS, OPPOSE INCLUSION OF THIS IDEA IN THE OPTION 3 GUIDANCE, AND THAT WE LEAVE THIS ISSUE FOR LATER NAC TREATMENT ALONG THE LINES OF OUR RECOMMENDATION IN MBFR 0285 IF A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF PHASING WITH THE EAST SHOULD MATERIALIZE.

RESOR

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